the development of these systems in the First Five Year Plan: the allocation has gone to Rs. 120.05 crores durin the 7th Five Year Plan—Rs. 43.25 crores in the Central Sector and Rs. 85.80 crores in the States Sector. The Planning Commission have been requested to provide more funds during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) The Cental Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) have prescribed minimum educational standards for teaching of Ayurveda in all educational institutions throughout the country. Inspectors/visitors of CCIM visit Ayurvedic teaching institutions and give suggestions on improvement of standards in teaching and practical training wherever necessary. Government have set up a Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha for carrying out research in these systems with a view to strengthen them.

Payment made in ONGC Deal

1247. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 628 given the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether ONGC has initiated any action in the case of payment of remuneration by M/s, Sumitomo Corporation to M/s. Jyotsna Holding Ltd. in violation of Clause 31 of the tender conditions in respect of the ONGC contract;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the charges made against M/s. Jyotsna Holdings and damages claimed from them; and

(d) whether Government propose to recover the money deposited by Jyotsna Holdings in foreign and Indian banks, if so, what follow up action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) On receipt of information regarding payment of Commission, and explanation was sought from M/s. Sumitomo Corporation. M/s. Sumitomo Corporation replied that they had employed M/s. Jyotsna Holdings as a consultant and not as an agent. Legal opinion of the First Additional Solicitor General of India and subsequently of the Attorney General of India was taken by ONGC/GAIL.

In the light of the discussions in the Parliament and based on the opinion given by the two law officers as above, it was decided by the Department on 23-12-1989 that:

(i) ONGC and GAIL should not give any further business to the Consortium of firms that functioned in the name of M/s Sumitomo Corporation and

(ii) ONGC and GAIL be advised to initiate action for appropriate relief.

Accordingly, ONGC and GAIL had issued notices to the five firms of the Consortium for refund of the amount of commission paid.

Order have also been issued on 9-2-90 to all Public Sector Undertakings under the control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals not to give further business to the consortium.